

Title

Noteworthy Mammal Distribution Records for the Nevada Test Site (RE: "Great Basin Naturalist" 50(1)) This report adds three new mammal species to the original 46 species that occur on the NTS. Technical Reference Document

Author

Medica, P.A.



100990

Document Date

1/1/90

ERC Index number

05.09.034

Document Type

Report

Box Number

1684-1

Recipients

EG&G/EM

Great Basin Naturalist 50(1), 1990, pp. 83-84

NOTEWORTHY MAMMAL DISTRIBUTION RECORDS
FOR THE NEVADA TEST SITEPhilip A. Medica¹

Previous reports on the mammals of the Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada (Jorgensen and Hayward 1965, O'Farrell and Emery 1976), indicate the presence of 46 species (42 terrestrial mammals and 4 bats).

Under a new project entitled Basic Environmental Compliance and Monitoring Program at the Nevada Test Site, two previously uncollected species of mammals were obtained, and a range extension for a third species was documented during the 1988 sampling season. Voucher specimens have been deposited at the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada.

***Mustela frenata nevadensis* Hall.**— Small-animal trapping was conducted on three consecutive nights in Rock Valley, Nye County, Nevada, elevation 1,035 m. (14–16 June 1988). On 15 June 1988 two *M. f. nevadensis* (an adult female and a juvenile female) were captured in Sherman traps. This record extends the known range on the Nevada Test Site approximately 58 km south of the previous known locality. Prior records reported *M. f. nevadensis* from the vicinity just south of Whiterock Spring in northwestern Yucca Flat in the Grayia-Lycium community (Jorgensen and Hayward 1965). The male *M. f. nevadensis* (4298 BYU) cited by Jorgensen and Hayward (1965) was collected on 15 May 1961, dead on the road, and measured 386-130-41—no ear measurement, no skull (Jorgensen, personal communication). I observed an additional juvenile live specimen in early April 1987 approximately 4 km southeast of Whiterock Spring; it was later released. Additional published records for *M. f. nevadensis* exist for the Spring Mountains, Clark County, Nevada, ~50 km southeast of Rock Valley, where weasels were observed but not collected (Burt

1934), and Arlemont, Esmeralda County, Nevada, 1,478 m, Fish Lake Valley (Hall 1951: 290), which is ~210 km northwest of Rock Valley.

The juvenile female specimen collected in Rock Valley, 36°41'N, 116°11'W, (NSMLV-M-9202) measured 319-110-32-17 and weighed 91 g. It is important to note that Rock Valley lies at the northern edge of the Specter Range along the southern boundary of the Nevada Test Site. The vegetation consists primarily of *Larrea tridentata*, *Lycium andersonii*, *Lycium pallidum*, and *Ambrosia dumosa* (Romney et al. 1973). This region is located in an area that contains no above-ground permanent water source. The nearest source is a "tinaja," a small rock crevice with an opening approximately 20 cm that stores water collected from runoff; it is approximately 5 km west of the locality in which the *M. f. nevadensis* were collected.

***Urocyon cinereoargenteus scottii* Mearns.**— One specimen was collected dead on Holmes Road, 1.3 km northwest of the junction of Holmes Road and Stockade Wash Road, Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada (37°10'N, 116°13'W), at 0700 hr on 2 August 1988. This immature female specimen (NSMLV-M-9203) measured 727-310-120-70 and weighed 1733 g. This location is at the southern end of Rainier Mesa at an elevation of 1,993 m and at the lower edge of pinyon-juniper habitat. Hall (1946:241) cited a trapper capturing gray fox at 2,194 m, 8.9 km northwest of Whiterock Spring during the winter of 1930–31 in pinyon timber. This locality was most likely on the top of Rainier Mesa or Aqueduct Mesa in the Belted Range on the Nevada Test Site. An additional sighting was recorded on Pahute Mesa by

¹Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Inc., BECAMP, Box 495, Mercury, Nevada 89023.

The document contained in this file has not been saved as an electronic file because it is copyrighted material.

A hard copy of this document can be found in Box Number 0563-3.